

OSWESTERY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M e d i c a l O f f i c e r o f H e a l t h
for the YEAR
1 9 4 5

L. WILSON EVANS, M.C., M.B., D.P.H.

To The Chairman and Members of
The Oswestry Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report for 1945. The Minister of Health has directed that it should be prepared on the lines of that for 1944, so it again will be less comprehensive than before the war.

The report includes notes by the Sanitary Inspector on matters with which he is more directly concerned. I would express my thanks to Mr Haskayne for his help during the year and also to my colleagues in other departments for their ready co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.

Public Health Staff.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Qualifications.</u>	<u>Office Held.</u>	<u>Whole or Part time.</u>
L. Wilson Evans.	M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.
H. Haskayne.	Cert.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.	Housing and Sanitary Inspector Meat Inspector.	Whole.
E. D. Evans.		Clerk and Assistant.	Whole.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1945.

Population.

Estimated. 16780.

<u>Births.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	135.	120.	255.
Illegitimate.	10.	24.	34.
Total	145.	144.	289.

Birth rate per 1,000 population. 17.2.

Birth rate per 1,000 population. England and Wales. 16.1.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	5.	4.	9.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Total.	5.	4.	9.

Still births per 1,000 population. 0.54.

Still births per 1,000 population. England and Wales. 0.46.

Deaths. Infants under 1 year.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	5.	5.	10.
Illegitimate.	-.	1.	1.
Total.	5.	6.	11.

Infant mortality per 1,000 births. 38.

Infant mortality per 1,000 births. England and Wales. 46.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	87	89.	176.



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Death rate per 1,000 population	10.5.
Death rate per 1,000 population. England and Wales.	11.4.

	M.	F.
Deaths from Measles	Nil.	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough.	Nil.	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea; under two years.	1.	1.
Deaths from maternal causes	Nil.	Nil.

Chief causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Heart Disease.	35.	34.
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesion.	8.	10.
Cancer.	7.	10.
Bronchitis.	4.	3.
Suicide and Violence.	6.	0.
Tuberculosis.	4.	2.
Appendicitis.	2.	2.

The estimated population is 170 more than last year. The total births is 34 less than the record total of last year, but the birth rate is still above the average and higher than that for England and Wales. The number of deaths is the same as last year but as a result of the increased figure for the population, the rate per 1,000 population is slightly lower than last year's record low figure. The favourable state of infant mortality noted last year has been maintained which is further improved by a reduction of still births. It is very satisfactory to be able to report that for the fourth consecutive year there were no deaths of mothers as a result of childbirth.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

Notification of Infectious Disease.

Distribution according to age and sex.

Age:	Diphtheria.		Dysentery.		Measles.		Pneumonia.		Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.	
Years.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	-.	-.	-.	-.	3.	1.	1.	-.	1.	-.	-.	1.
1-3	-.	-.	-.	-.	10.	6.	-.	-.	3.	-.	-.	2.
3-5	-.	-.	-.	-.	11.	4.	-.	-.	1.	3.	1.	2.
5-10	-.	-.	1.	-.	24.	17.	1.	2.	15.	12.	3.	2.
10-15	-.	-.	-.	-.	4.	3.	-.	-.	11.	11.	2.	-.
15-25	2.	-.	2.	1.	10.	3.	3.	2.	87.	2.	-.	-.
25-45	1.	-.	-.	-.	6.	1.	-.	-.	3.	1.	-.	-.
45-65	-.	-.	-.	-.	-.	-.	1.	3.	-.	-.	-.	-.
65 and over.	-.	-.	-.	-.	-.	-.	1.	1.	-.	-.	-.	-.
Totals	3.	-.	3.	1.	68.	35.	7.	8.	121.	29.	6.	7.

The 3 cases of Diphtheria were non-civilian. 14 of the cases of Measles were non-civilian, 2 cases of Pneumonia were non-civilian, and 88 cases of Scarlet Fever.

One case of Erysipelas was notified, and One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Distribution in the four quarters of the year.

	Dysentery.		Measles.		Pneumonia.		Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Jan 1st-March 31st.	1.	1.	60.	31.	5.	6.	52.	6.	1.	1.
Apr. 1st-June 30th.	2.	-.	6.	4.	2.	2.	51.	13.	-.	-.
July 1st-Sept 30th.	-.	-.	1.	-.	-.	-.	6.	3.	1.	2.
Oct. 1st-Dec 31st.	-.	-.	1.	-.	-.	-.	12.	7.	4.	4.

Of the 62 Civilian Cases of Scarlet Fever 39 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. There were no cases of Diphtheria among the civilian population.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under 5 years.

5 - 15 years.

Number of children
who had full course
of injections in
1945

233.

50.

Estimated child
population

1,350.

2600.

Percentage of child
population considered
to be immunised by
December 31st 1944

50%

91%

The figures for immunisation are much the same as last year, about a third of the children who reached the age of 1 year were immunised, it is to be regretted that more parents do not take this easy and safe method of having their children protected from a dangerous disease.

Experience of the result of immunisation has shown that where a child has had preventive injections in infancy, the ideal age being eight or nine months, it is advisable for one further dose to be given when it enters school, this strengthens the protection given in infancy, and ensures that the loss of immunity that has taken place during the interval will be fortified. All parents when having their infants immunised should be informed of the advisability of this boosting dose.

Tuberculosis.

Respiratory.

Non Respiratory.

M. F.

M. F.

New cases.

2. 4.

3. 3.

Service cases.

4. -.

- -.

Cases transferred from other
districts.

1. 3.

- -.

Admitted to Sanatorium and
Hospital.

2. 1.

- 1.

Deaths.

1. 2.

- -.

Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register on December 31st 1945.

Respiratory.	M.	F.	Non Respiratory.	M.	F.
	31.	29.		23.	26.

Scabies.

Seventeen families affected with scabies were brought to the notice of the health department during the year, this included forty cases of the disease, most of them cleared up soon after treatment. In one family the disease recurred on two occasions during the year after intervals of three or four months; except in families, the disease did not spread and there were no outbreaks in any school.

Water Supplies.

Approximate percentage of houses and persons with a piped water supply. 50%

Approximate percentage of houses and persons supplied by stand pipes. 50%

The conditions of the water supplies reported in previous reports are unchanged. An improvement is anticipated as a result of the scheme to be submitted to the Council by the Consultant Water Engineer, Major Waters.

Ruyton XI Towns probably stands first in urgency for an improved water supply, other areas where a piped water supply is needed are Frankton, Morton, Kinnerley (Pentre and Molverley), The Racecourse Rhosygadfa, Selattyn, The Sarn, Treflach and West Felton.

Report on Samples taken during the Year.

Trefonen Supply.

Bacteriological report on Raw Water from Trefonen Main.

Presumptive B.Coli 50 in 100 mls.

Faecal Coli Absent.

Viabale bacterial count at 22° 35 per ml.
Viabale bacterial count at 37° 52 per ml.

Pant Supply.

Bacteriological report on Chlorinated water from Pant Main.

B. Coli absent in 100 mls.

Viabale bacterial count at 22° absent.

Viabale bacterial count at 37° absent.

Insufficient water from Residual Chlorine.

Pant Supply.

Bacteriological report on Unchlorinated Water from Pant Main.

Presumptive B. Coli 90 in 100 mls.

Faecal Coli absent.

Viabale bacterial count at 22° 75 per ml.

Viabale bacterial count at 37° 66 per ml.

Nant Maur Supply.

Bacteriological report on Raw Water from Nant Maur.

Presumptive B. Coli 3 in 100 mls.

Faecal Coli absent.

Viabale bacterial count at 22° absent.

Viabale bacterial count at 37° 10 per ml.

Maesbury Supply.

Bacteriological report on Unchlorinated Water from Maesbury Main.

B. Coli absent in 100 mls.

Faecal Coli absent.

Viabale bacterial count at 22° 7 per ml.

Viabale bacterial count at 37° 15 per ml.

Maesbury Supply.

Bacteriological report on Chlorinated Water from Maesbury Main.

B. Coli absent in 100 mls.

Viabale bacterial count at 22° 1 per ml.

Viabale bacterial count at 37° 4 per ml.

Insufficient water from Residual Chlorine.

HOUSING.

Number of inhabited houses 4229

HOUSING PROGRAMME.

It has been decided to erect houses in the following Parishes

Gobowen	22
Llanymynech	4
Ruyton X1 Towns	8
St Martins	34
Selattyn	4
West Felton	10
Whittington	16
Total	<u>98</u>

These will all contain 3 or 4 Bedrooms.

Work has been recommenced on the 16 houses at Weston Rhyn, which has been held up during the war, they are expected to be completed during the coming year, it is also hoped that the temporary bungalows will be ready for occupation at the end of the year, they are being erected as follows:-

Gobowen	10
Llorda	9
Whittington	9

As information of the number of applicants for houses becomes available it is evident that a formidable task to provide sufficient houses confronts the Council. Six hundred and twenty applications were received for houses covering about half the district, and taking these figures as a basis it seems reasonable to estimate that there are about 1000 to 1200 families wanting houses over the whole district. Judging from applications already considered about a quarter of them can be excluded for various reasons so that there remains a possible 800 to 900 families in real need of houses, and there will be an additional number living in unfit houses who are not among the applicants. Of these families there is an estimated number of 180 young married couples with no children living in rooms, some 150 with one small child, and 70 with 2 small children. The problem of providing houses for these young couples with one and no children is a difficult one, for the majority of Council Houses, and all the proposed new houses except 28 temporary bungalows, have at least 3 bedrooms, and there is to be expected a disinclination to put 2 or 3 persons into a house with so much extra accommodation, yet it is of the greatest importance for their own happiness and for the future of the race that there should not be long delay in them obtaining a house of their own. In considering the future programme this problem needs to be considered, similar accommodation will also cater for elderly couples whose needs are now receiving more attention in planning housing sites and when their requirements have been discussed it is generally suggested that 10% of the new houses shall be given to old people.

SANITARY INSPECTORS REPORT.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register.	..	..	..	592.
Inspections made.	...	...	...	178.
Cowsheds reconstructed and erected.	..	..	..	10.

It is only in recent years that one has learnt to appreciate the great advantage of milk as a food, but its liability to pollution is part of the spread of disease.

The whole secret of the production of clean milk is to make sure that the milk comes into contact as little as possible with dust or dirt from the moment it is drawn from the cow until the time it leaves the udder.

All utensils should be of a kind that can easily be cleaned and should be thoroughly sterilized before using. To produce clean milk it is very important that all milk vessels should be thoroughly clean. Paragraph 15 of the "Milk and Dairies Order 1926" requires that all vessels used shall be thoroughly washed as soon as may be after use and should be cleansed with boiling water and steam before being used again. Experience shows that the use of boiling water is not efficient and that scalding by steam should be enforced. It is now conclusively proved that failure to wash and sterilize dairy utensils regularly has a greater adverse effect on the bacteriological content and keeping quality of the milk than any other single factor. At this stage I must stress the importance of a pure water supply which is essential for all purposes in the production of a clean milk supply.

The majority of dairy farms draw their water supplies from private sources which are not under constant official control, and may possibly be unsuitable for dairying purposes. Thorough washing of all utensils is very necessary, but when a water supply that may become contaminated at any time is used, there is a serious danger to the consumer of raw milk.

The cowshed should be clean, well lighted and ventilated. Natural light should reach all parts of the cowshed. The cows should be well groomed and all manure and dirt should be washed from the flanks tail and udder, and then wiped with a clean cloth.

The milkers should be healthy and should wear clean overalls and caps during the process of milking, and should wash their hands as may be needed, the milking stools should also be kept very clean.

I am pleased to say that great strides have been made by producers in the District during the past year to try and produce milk of a first class quality. I am looking forward to better results during the coming year.

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

There are in your District 52 farms licensed to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk, and 44 licensed under the "Accredited" scheme, a large quantity of the milk is retailed in the District and the Borough. The Special Designations of milk under the above order are "Tuberculin Tested", "Accredited" and "Pasteurised". Licenses under this order authorising the use of the designations "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" are granted by the County Council, and the designation "Pasteurised" by the Rural District Council.

"Tuberculin Tested" Tuberculin testing of all cows.

"Tuberculin Tested and Accredited". Any sample of milk shall satisfy a methylene blue test and shall be found to contain no Coliform Bacillus in 1/100 of a millilitre.

During the year the following samples have been taken:-

"Tuberculin Tested"	250
"Accredited"	222
Total	<u>472</u>

191 of these failed to comply with the necessary tests.

Meat.

The slaughtering and inspecting of all animals is still carried on at the Ministry of Food's Depots in the Borough of Oswestry and may continue for a few years longer.

This method of central slaughtering no doubt has its advantages, all the animals slaughtered at the above depots are inspected before being sent out to the various parts of the district, which is very essential. The public are then assured of a first class meat supply.

The following number of animals were slaughtered and inspected by myself at the Ministry of Food's Depots during the past twelve months.

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
679.	424.	1,295.	241.	4,639.

Offensive Trades.

There are two knocker yards in your District, one at Weston Rhyn and the other at Whittington. Both are periodically inspected and are kept in a most satisfactory manner.

Other Foods.

Bakehouses or other premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale, or intended for sale are kept under observation.

Scavenging.

Arrangements for scavenging remain as in former years, and considering the scattered district also the difficulties that have arisen during the past year, both as regards men and vehicles I consider the scheme a success.

The collection and disposal of house refuse, no doubt is a problem and is usually undertaken by the Local Authority. As regards the disposal I have been very fortunate during the past year in finding tips in various parts of the district, but these tips eventually get filled up and other methods of disposal will have to be considered in the near future.

I am looking forward to scavenging those parts of the district which were discontinued during the war owing to petrol restrictions, and with the prospect of a larger and more up to date scavenging lorry, these outlying districts can very well come into the scheme.

The provision of dustbins is still a problem and improvised bins have been provided in a good many instances to remedy the shortage, but these fall far short of what is required.

I am sorry to say that the salvaging of waste paper shows a regrettable decrease, but from report that I have received all is not without collections over the whole country. Appeals have been made at frequent intervals both by the Ministry and the B.B.C., but the collection of waste paper has still further declined. Waste paper is in itself the principal material used for paperboard for food, ceiling board for housing, packages for export etc. I can only hope that householders and salvage stewards will try and increase collections during the next twelve months, the need for waste paper is still very urgent and has not in any way decreased, but I believe the present low level of recovery is due largely to apathy on the part of the public.

Housing Act 1936.

The work of the department in connection with the reconditioning of houses for the working classes has been confined to cases where complaints have been received.

There are a number of dwellings in the district of a very low standard and in variable states of soundness, these no doubt will be dealt with when the survey of the district (which is now in progress) has been completed.

28 notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

35 houses were dealt with informally.

Overcrowding.

Overcrowding is another aspect of unsatisfactory housing conditions Local Authorities are bound to relieve. Most of these cases do not come to light until applications are made to the Council for new houses, but with the survey of the district now in progress, both overcrowding and the housing conditions generally can be dealt with. It would be a mistake on my part to say that there are no cases of overcrowding in the district. There are no doubt a number of cases which are brought about by natural causes, some of these cases have been dealt with by the department.

Verminous Houses and Persons.

Number of bug infested houses dealt with.

6.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

During the year a survey was made of the district regarding the extent of rat infestation. Complaints have also been received from various householders that their premises were infested with rats, but after various inspections I was able to prove that these so called rat infestations were only a few stray rats that had found their way into the outbuildings, these were quickly dealt with and advice given such as keeping the premises thoroughly clean, and above all leaving no food lying about.

I am pleased to say that the results in all cases were satisfactory.

